



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Date: May 11, 2011

TO: Washington State Accredited and Trichomoniasis Testing Certified Veterinarians

FROM: Dr. Leonard E. Eldridge, State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Trichomoniasis Testing Protocol

The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) has provided important information in regards to Trichomoniasis sampling and shipping. The optimal method for shipping samples to WADDL for Trichomoniasis testing is to collect the samples on Monday through Thursday, then ship "In Pouch" at ambient temperature (without ice packs) for next day delivery by express courier. This will ensure the sample is received by WADDL within 48 hours of collection per WAC requirements. (detailed information is available on-line on the WADDL website at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/dx/trichomoniasis.aspx).

WADDL is open every Saturday until noon and does receive Federal Express shipments on Saturdays so that samples collected on Thursday could be shipped Friday for next day delivery at WADDL. However, FEDEX sometimes comes after noon, so the lab needs to be notified of any samples to be shipped Friday. If they are aware that Trichomoniasis samples are to arrive on a Saturday, they will have someone available to receive them. The Saturday samples would be set up for incubation at 37C until Monday when they are tested by PCR. There should be no need for special handling of samples collected on a Thursday that arrive at WADDL on Saturday (other than informing the lab the samples are coming).

If Trichomoniasis samples must be collected on weekends (Friday or Saturday), or samples cannot be shipped to the laboratory within 48 hours of collection for other reasons (because life is not always "optimal") then special handling procedures should be followed. The Trichomoniasis sampling and shipping protocol for extended intervals between sampling and arrival in the lab is as follows:

1. Collect sample using InPouch culture media
2. Incubate sample at 37C for 24-48 hours

3. Freeze sample at -20°C (regular freezer)
4. Ship on ice packs to lab for next day delivery (no dry ice required)

This freezing procedure, although not optimal, will still “amplify” any parasites present in the sample and prevent degradation during shipping before arrival in the lab. Make sure the frozen samples are shipped on ice for next day delivery so that they remain cool.

If you have any questions concerning the information provided, please call our office at 360-902-1878 or WADDL at 509-335-9696.